

Appl. No. 09/928,820  
Amdt. dated September 9, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2003

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 21, 22, 23, 32 and 33 and amend claims 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28 and 31 as follows:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

Humburg 13. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components of an easily assembled and disassembled modular furniture system including a base frame, a plurality of furniture modules including a first arm module, a second arm module, a seat suspension module and a backrest module, said bracket comprising:

a blade <sup>15</sup>portion having a mounting <sup>20</sup>formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade <sup>17</sup>formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

C1 Cont  
a sheath <sup>10</sup>portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting <sup>12, 13</sup>formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion and said blade ~~portion~~ formation being substantially coaxial upon assembly so that said blade portion can be readily slidably disassembled from said sheath portion;

wherein said sheath portion engages an exposed end of said blade portion, and upon assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The bracket of claim 13 further including an open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath portion upon passing through said chamber.

16. (Original) The bracket of claim 15 further including a formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

17. (Currently amended) The bracket of claim 13 wherein said blade ~~forms~~ portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components to one another, said bracket comprising:

a blade <sup>15</sup>portion having a mounting <sup>20</sup>formation configured for attachment to one of the components, and an elongate blade <sup>17</sup>formation projecting from said mounting formation; and

a sheath <sup>10</sup>portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also having a mounting <sup>12, 13</sup>formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components, said sheath portion configured so that upon assembly of said bracket, said sheath portion is in alignment with said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said blade portion and said mounting formation of said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed relationship to each other.

20. (Currently amended) A bracket for releasably securing components of a  
furniture system, said bracket comprising:

<sup>112</sup>  
*Hinebaugh* a blade portion having a mounting formation configured for attachment to one  
of the components, and an elongate blade formation projecting from said mounting  
formation; and

<sup>10</sup>  
a sheath portion defining a chamber for receiving said blade formation and also  
having a mounting formation configured for attachment to an adjacent one of the components  
said sheath portion being substantially coaxial so that said blade portion can be readily,  
slidably disassembled from said sheath portion; <sup>12, 13</sup> *with what?*

wherein upon assembly of said bracket, said mounting formation of said blade  
portion and said mounting formation of said sheath portion are configured to be in opposed,  
contacting relationship to each other.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

*Hinebaugh* 24. (Currently Amended) A bracket according to claim 23 19 wherein said  
mounting formation of said sheath portion and said mounting formation of said blade portion  
are in contact with each other upon assembly.

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*Huebner* 25. (Currently Amended) A bracket according to claim ~~23~~ 19 wherein upon  
*see Figs 8-10*  
assembly, said sheath portion fully encloses said blade formation.

= 26. (Previously submitted) The bracket of claim 19 further including an  
open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath  
portion upon passing through said chamber.

*C1*  
*int* = 27. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 26 further including a  
formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

= 28. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 19 wherein said blade ~~forms~~  
portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

= 29. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 20 further including an  
open rear end of said chamber and a locking device for securing said blade to said sheath  
portion upon passing through said chamber.

= 30. (Previously Submitted) The bracket of claim 29 further including a  
formation on said blade for engaging said locking device.

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31. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 20 wherein said blade forms  
= portion includes a portion forming a right angle relative to said blade formation.

C1  
C2  
32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

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